



adoption connections

Fall 2004 Issue



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"I like to play football with my friends and my favorite Tennessee Titan is Steve McNair."

-Larmonzoe, pg. 2

"We must remember in this time that our Mission is to serve families and children..."

-Mattie Satterfield, pg. 1

"Change Can Be Positive"

Introduction

*"With over 25 years of service in the Maryland Child Welfare System and 8 years as the Director of Kinship Services for the Child Welfare League of America, why has Mattie Satterfield has joined the Department of Children's Services in Tennessee as the **Director of Adoption, Foster Care and Kinship?**" "She is excited about the vision of service delivery that is developing in Tennessee."*

Ms. Satterfield completed her Bachelor's Degree at Morgan State University and her Masters at the University of Maryland as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Her experience has included, but is not limited to: intake, counseling, supervision, direct administration, and direct service worker. Additionally, she has served as a consultant both domestically and internationally with Kinship Care programs in Ireland and London. Ms. Satterfield has also written articles on Kinship Care and Public Child Welfare.

Ms. Satterfield's introduction, relationship, and experience with the Department of Children's Services in Tennessee began when she consulted and worked closely within the Department as the Relative Caregiver Program was being developed. These relationships have continued to develop along with her awareness of the changes taking place within the Department. The changes are exciting to her and piqued her interest enough to relocate her from her life in the Northeast to the South.

The nature of transition

In a recent interview with Ms. Satterfield, she shares some of her thoughts and excitement for the Department and the changes within. "Change always presents anxiety and feelings of 'What's coming next and how will I fit?' The other piece of the anxiety is the positiveness surrounding change. It is scary, but there is always a positive piece that is almost always the end result. The Department is responding to the children and families in Tennessee in a positive way because of



Mattie Satterfield

these changes. It is an exciting time for the Department as well as the community partners. We are collaborating in a different manner that will develop relationships and benefit the children and families in Tennessee."

The changes

A couple of the aforementioned changes include:

1. **One Worker One Child-** With this model, families and children will have one worker working throughout the life of the case.
2. **Training**
 - a. *Evaluating how staff is trained*, with a desire to enhance professional development
 - b. *Pre-Service Training* is being redesigned to support the "One Worker One Child" model.
 - c. *Inservice-* better meeting the needs of staff with more tailored and/or broadened training. Ensure staff are trained in all areas.

Benefiting TN families and children

Ms. Satterfield reiterates the ultimate vision for the Department, "We must remember in this time that our **Mission is to serve families and children** and we want to do that better through:

1. **Quality Service**
2. **Enhanced professional development for staff and other community people**
3. **Ensuring that people know we are here to be of service to them."**



Help a child find a family



More About Larmonzoe

Larmonzoe is a friendly child who also has a great sense of humor. One of his favorite things to do is to collect and trade football cards. He also loves to watch the Titans games on television.

What Others Say About Larmonzoe

Larmonzoe would benefit from a family that enjoys sports, is active, and likes the outdoors. He needs a home that will provide structure and consistency in his daily routine.

Larmonzoe

DOB: 6/30/89

"I like to play football with my friends and my favorite Tennessee Titan is Steve McNair."

For more information:

Tisa Zimmerman, 888-742-3905

More About J'Undra

J'Undra is a sweet little girl. She likes to sing and listen to music. J'Undra has some physical challenges that have to be addressed. J'Undra likes to interact with others and likes a lot of activity.

What Others Say About J'Undra

J'Undra's caregivers state, "J'Undra provides a lot of enjoyment. She does require some special care and she has some special needs. The reward in caring for her comes in her interaction with you."



J'Undra

DOB: 3/30/93

For more information:

Neda Johnson - 423-634-7716



Gervell

DOB: 7/9/90

Gerald

DOB: 4/6/92

More About Gerald and Gervell

Gerald is a happy, busy and handsome young man who likes to talk and does not meet a stranger. He is very protective of his younger brother and wants to be placed with him. Gerald has a great sense of humor and keeps everyone laughing.

Gervell is a young daredevil who will have anyone hopping to keep up. He has a beautiful smile and likes one on one attention. He enjoys hugs and encouragement and is eager to please. Gervell will usually follow his older brother's lead, but he is also independent.

What Others Say About Gerald and Gervell

"He is a real boy and can be a handful," says Gerald's counselor, "and he is usually a comedian with his younger brother."

"Gervell is a charmer and really wants to please others," says Gervell's caseworker.

For more information:

Vicki Murphy, 423-634-6955

More About Paige

Paige has a winning smile and a soft voice. She enjoys talking to her friends on the phone. She likes to go shopping, eat out, and watch television. She enjoys watching reality shows. Her favorite colors are black and lime green. Her favorite movie is "Honey".



What Others Say About Paige

Paige has a lot of potential. Paige has not had a lot of opportunity to try new things. She needs a family who will allow her to try new activities such as sports or band and find out what she enjoys.

Paige

DOB: 1/29/91

For more information:

Angela Boone, 615-250-7259

Please post this page



Dale

DOB: 9/13/91

More About Dale

Dale is an attractive young man with light brown hair and hazel-green eyes. Dale likes the outdoors and likes to keep busy. He is very helpful to his foster parents. He helps with the dogs and sometimes with the horses. He plays well with younger children. Dale enjoys going to the movies and playing video games at home. Dale is intelligent and has the ability to make good grades.

What Others Say About Dale

Dale is a good worker and is very helpful around the house. He enjoys being outside and helping with chores.

For More Information:

Lisa Aaron, 423-952-2290

More About Kendra

Kendra is a very energetic preteen who loves to play with her dolls and stuffed animals. Kendra has made a lot of progress in her behaviors and addressing past experiences. She has been diagnosed with mild mental retardation. Kendra enjoys school and relates well to adults and her peers. She is a loving child who sometimes struggles with discerning personal boundaries.

What Others Say About Kendra

Kendra is a very sociable girl. She loves people, and being out in the community. Kendra is a very friendly child that loves to talk. Kendra enjoys most activities that involve interaction with others and will enthusiastically greet you with a huge hug and a big smile.

For more information:

Deana Ferguson, 615-253-6872



Kendra

DOB: 1/17/91



Crystal

DOB: 7/12/90

More About Crystal

Crystal is a happy girl with a bright smile. She is a very health and loving teenager. Crystal likes animals and she loves to sing. Crystal has been diagnosed with mild mental retardation and has some speech delays.

What Others Say About Crystal

"Crystal has overcome several obstacles in the last few years," says her case manager.

"Crystal is a happy and loving child," says the foster parents.

"Crystal is a very affectionate child that meets no strangers," says her case manager.

For more information:

Elizabeth Lax, 731-423-6540

More About David

David is a very likeable boy with a great personality. He loves to laugh, joke and play, and gets along very well with his peers. David has lots of energy. He loves music of all kinds, but his favorite is rock music. He loves working and learning about farm animals. He has a great relationship with his agriculture teacher and even likes to work in the hay field. David wants very much to be adopted.

What Others Say About David

David is lots of fun and gets along well with his peers. When he is frustrated, however, he struggles to find appropriate ways to express the frustration. He is a fair student who has the potential to do much better with proper motivation.

For more information:

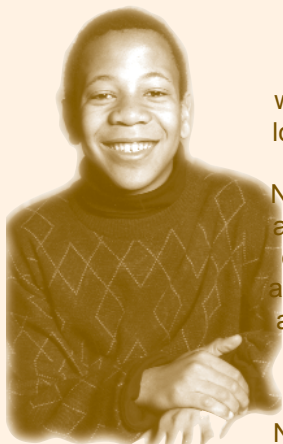
Terry Durham, 423-942-3485 ext. 204



David

DOB: 2/18/88

Miracles waiting to happen



Najee

DOB:

More About Najee

Najee is a friendly and handsome young man who has dark hair and big brown eyes. Najee loves to play games on the computer, shop for model trucks, going out to eat and travelling. Najee loves anything to do with trucks and has a large collection of model trucks. Najee is an easy-going young man and is amiable to just about any activity where he has your undivided attention. Najee greets everyone with a smile and usually a big hug.

What Others Say About Najee

Najee's case manager and foster mother state that Najee responds to one on one attention. Najee functions best in a smaller, individualized classroom designed to meet his individual needs. Najee's thing is trucks and he hopes to have a career as a truck driver someday. Najee is sensitive and yearns for unconditional love and affection. Despite several disappointments in his life, Najee remains open to become part of a loving and nurturing home.

For more information:

Ruth Teegarden, 901-578-4260

More About Russell

Russell is usually very quiet and keeps to himself. He is intelligent; however, he sometimes struggles with applying himself academically. He loves his Play Station and has become very good at many different games. Russell also enjoys fishing and basketball.

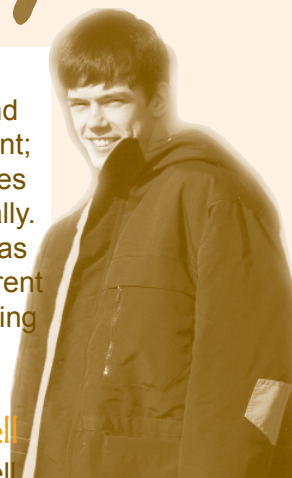
What Others Say About Russell

His foster mother says, "Russell would be a wonderful addition to any family; he is no trouble to care for."

His caseworker states, "Russell would love to participate in something like the Boy Scouts."

For more information:

Cindi Cook, 423-787-8741



Russell

DOB: 5/24/88

"My dream job would be to be a video tester."



Andrew

DOB: 11/8/96

Andrea

DOB: 1/29/01

More About Andrew & Andrea

Andrea is an adorable girl. She has a very close bond with her baby brother, Andrew. Andrea is a very loving and friendly child that likes to please others. Andrea enjoys activities outdoors and Barbie dolls. She also enjoys playing dress up and coloring.

Andrew is a handsome, huggable little boy who loves attention and affection. He also likes to watch cartoons with his sister and play ball.

What Others Say About Andrew & Andrea

Andrea is currently in good general health and is very active, but Andrea does have mild asthma and allergies. She has also been diagnosed ADHD and is currently taking medication to control her hyperactivity. Andrea has a tendency to push her boundaries and engaging power struggles with authority figures. However, she benefits greatly from structure and routine.

Andrew is currently in good health and is very active. He is walking but sometimes has difficulty communicating his needs verbally. Andrew exhibits some developmental delays and has severe asthma.

For more information:

Deana Ferguson, 615-253-6872

More About Steven

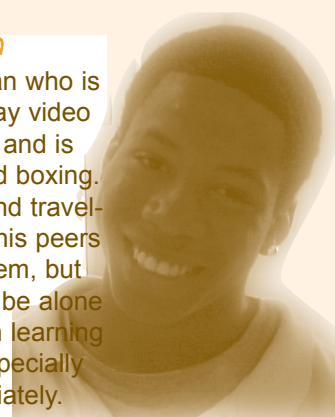
Steven is a handsome young man who is maturing quickly. He loves to play video games. Steven is very athletic and is especially good at basketball and boxing. He enjoys going to the movies and travelling. Steven gets along well with his peers and likes to spend time with them, but also has times that he prefers to be alone to read or meditate. He has been learning how to express his feelings, especially those of anger, more appropriately.

What Others Say About Steven

Steven's foster mother says, "Steven has come a long way since being in my home. He has made huge steps in learning to control and express his emotions. Steven has learned that there are people in the world that care about him and want him to succeed."

For more information:

Shanita Ogburn, 731-265-7098



Steven

DOB: 10/28/89

"I want a family that will treat me fairly and with respect."

Help a child find a family



Antonio

DOB: 12/22/90

More About Antonio

Antonio is a friendly and handsome young man who has dark hair and big brown eyes. Antonio likes to play "Hide and Seek", Chess, and on the computer. He likes to be active outside as well, especially riding his bike. When he is not outside, you can usually find him on the computer. Antonio's favorite TV programs are the "Little Rascals, and anything on the Disney or Nickelodeon channels.

Antonio's favorite subject is Math.

What Others Say About Antonio

Antonio is a confident child. He exhibits good manners and has a neat appearance. Antonio especially enjoys dressing up in a suit. He is a friendly and willing to try and a good helper around the house. Antonio has a lot of enthusiasm for life. He has a strong spirit, which has helped him weather many moments in his life. Antonio is a warm-hearted young man who never forgets a face and has a natural gift at remembering anything that has to do with numbers.

For More Information:

Ruth Teegarden, 901-578-4242

Caleb

DOB: 1/20/89

More About Caleb

Caleb is an easy-going young man with a laid-back personality. He enjoys watching TV, movies and playing video games.

Caleb is in great physical condition, but he needs encouragement to do more physical things. Caleb is somewhat shy but fits in, both with his peers and adults. He likes camping, fishing and helping with the cooking while camping.

What Others Say About Caleb

His case manager says, "Caleb is a bright young man who does well in school but needs encouragement to do his best. Caleb is liked by those who know him."

Caleb's foster father says, "Caleb has much potential but tends to be a couch potato if not encouraged to get out and do more active things. He is a good kid who needs a permanent home with lots of love."

For more information:

Kelly Buttram, 423-493-5950



More About Cody & Crystal

Cody is a very friendly, talkative and insightful adolescent.

Crystal is very personable, friendly and talkative. She takes great pride in her appearance also.

What Others Say About Cody & Crystal

Cody's counselor says, "Cody does very well in school and enjoys it, especially his Math class."

Crystal's counselor says, "Crystal is a very sweet girl who is capable of doing the right thing." She has good instincts and good judgment.

For more information:

Toi Douglass, 615-253-3299

Cody

DOB: 8/6/90

Crystal

DOB: 8/25/89

More About Breanna

Breanna is a pretty girl with a nice, warm engaging smile. She has shoulder-length, light blonde, semi-curlly hair and beautiful hazel eyes. She enjoys outside activities to include kickball, riding bikes, swimming, horseback riding, picnics and playing on the playground. Breanna enjoys board and card games such as Monopoly and Uno. Her favorite meal is roast beef with gravy, carrots, celery and potatoes. She is also a big fan of macaroni and cheese.

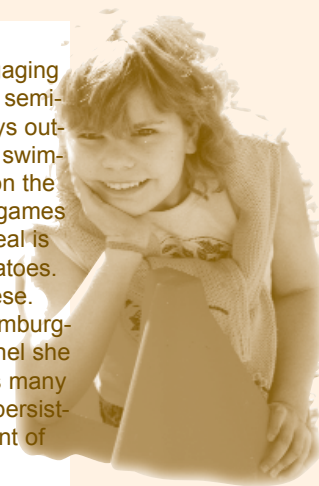
Breanna's favorite fast foods include pizza, hamburger and french fries or Taco Bell. The TV channel she enjoys most is Cartoon Network. Breanna has many great qualities to include a good imagination, persistence in learning new activities and enjoyment of reading.

What Others Say About Breanna

She is very mannerable and has a good sense of humor. She is very friendly and likes working on computers, trying to figure out how each program works. Breanna likes horses, dogs, and cats. She wants a loving, caring, family that will be involved in church and lives in the country. She hopes to have a sister or brother and her own room. Breanna also hopes that her adoptive family will allow her to have contact with her sister by telephone and/or letters.

For more information:

Derek Williams, 931-454-1934, ext.168



Breanna

DOB: 10/8/92

Saving Teen Lives In Tennessee

EDITOR'S NOTE: September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Tennessee. Adoption Connections is concerned about the well-being of all Tennessee's youth, and offer this article to bring awareness of this important issue.

THE FACTS

The teenage years can be a period of loneliness and confusion. Teens deal with a number of new experiences such as new relationships, decisions about the future, and the physical changes that are taking place in their bodies.

Young people are crying out for help. Some 7,000 American teens die by suicide each year, making suicide the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds. Youth suicide rates in the U.S. have tripled since the 1950's.

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 15 to 19 years.
- Every day, 14 young people (ages 15 to 24) die by suicide: approximately 1 every 100 minutes.
- Fifty-three percent of young people who die by suicide abuse drugs or alcohol.

IN TENNESSEE

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide states that suicide is a preventable public health problem that must be addressed. Statistically, males die by suicide at four times the rate of females, but females attempt three times as often as males. (American Association of Suicidology: AAS) While the suicide death rate among youth aged 10-14 is 0.3/100,000, it climbs to 9.4/100,000 among 15-19 year olds and 12.7/100,000 among 20-24 year olds.

The Youth Risk Behavior Study (YRBS) is a nationally administered survey of youth that measures, among other things, the number of students that attempt suicide as well as suicide ideation. In Tennessee, one of every eleven high school students (9 percent) indicates that they had attempted suicide in the last 12 months, according to the 2003 YRBS. The YRBS also shows one out of seven

Depression among youth is often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, and those fortunate enough to be properly diagnosed often lack transportation, have inadequate insurance, or face long waiting lists for therapists.

had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide. The AAS and other suicide authorities state that such prior suicide attempts and specific suicide plans are statistically significant indicators of increased risk of suicide death. In 2000, nearly one in every seven suicide deaths in Tennessee was aged 10 to 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

According to hospital discharge data for 2002, there were 3,733 suicide attempts among high school students. There were nine deaths among these attempts, and 876 were treated on an in-patient basis. (TN Dept of Health, Bureau of Health Information, Health Statistics and Research). Although suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death among all ages, it is the third leading cause of death among those aged 10 to 24 in TN (Child Fatality Review, 2000).

The suicide death rate for African American males in the South region has increased 213% since 1980,

according to the CDC. Because of their circumstances, kids in detention may be at "higher risk" of suicidal behavior. (Cocozza, J.J., Skowrya, K.R. (2000), Youth with Mental Health Disorders: Issues and Emerging Responses. Journal of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 7:3-13.)

The causes of suicidal behavior among youth are diverse and complex. In statements made at the June 2003 Suicide and the Black Church Conference in Memphis, Doris Smith, Co-founder and Vice President of NOPCAS noted that, too often, warning signs and indications of suicide concern about suicidal youth are not known, not observed, or not acknowledged by teachers, peers, family members, and others.

Youth educators and other gatekeepers lack suicide intervention knowledge or the skills to use them. Depression among youth is often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, and those fortunate enough to be properly diagnosed often lack transportation, have inadequate insurance, or face long waiting lists for therapists (Surgeon General Children's Mental Health 2000 report, CDC NHSDA survey). The YRBS reports that over 28 percent of high school students experienced one of the major symptoms of depression: feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks that they stopped doing some usual activities. Those who lose someone to suicide are themselves at higher risk of suicidal behaviors (AAS).

RISK FACTORS

Suicide is rarely caused by a single event. It is usually the result of **many factors over**

a period of time. Following are some of the common causes of suicidal thoughts or behavior in teens:

ADOLESCENT PRESSURES such as unrealistic academic, social, or family expectations can create a strong sense of rejection and can lead to deep disappointment. Adolescents are especially prone to feelings of loneliness, hopelessness and rejection as a result of these pressures.

DEPRESSION in adolescents is increasing at an alarming rate. Recent surveys indicate that as many as one in five teens suffers from clinical depression. Depression can be difficult to detect in teens. But it is extremely important that depressed teens receive prompt, professional treatment.

ABUSE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR SEX is a way that some teens cope with feelings of depression or loneliness. However, such behaviors only lead to new problems and deeper level of depression.

ISOLATION OR WITHDRAWAL can also be a coping strategy for the suicidal teen making them even more susceptible to loneliness, depression and substance abuse.

SIGNALS

Most suicidal people give some of the clues and warnings listed here. By learning the warning signs, paying attention, and trusting your own judgment, you can make the difference between life and death.

- Previous suicide attempts.
- Giving away prized possessions, making final arrangements, putting affairs in order.
- Themes of death or depression in conversation, writing, reading or art.
- Recent loss of friend or family member through death, suicide, or divorce.
- Sudden dramatic decline or improvement in schoolwork.
- Use or increased use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Chronic headaches or stomach aches, fatigue.
- Withdrawal or isolation from friends, family or school activities.
- Neglect of personal appearance.
- Taking unnecessary risks.
- No longer interested in favorite activities or hobbies.
- Changed eating or sleeping patterns.
- Talking about, making a plan or threatening to commit suicide.

(If this happens, take IMMEDIATE ACTION).

It is important to remember that any one of these signals alone does not necessarily indicate that a person is suicidal. **Several signals may be cause for concern.** Signals are especially important if the person has attempted suicide in the past. **Listen. Be a friend. Get professional help. Your actions may save a young life!**

WHAT TO DO

- Talk, offer help, and most importantly, **LISTEN**. If you think someone is considering suicide, **ASK THEM**.
- Teens need **reassurance that someone cares**. Show interest in the person and be supportive. Let them know that help is available.
- **Trust your instincts**. If the situation seems serious, seek prompt help.
- Treatment for depression and suicidal tendencies is of utmost importance. Alert key adults—family, friends, and teachers. Seek professional help.

WHAT NOT TO DO

- **Don't** act shocked, judge, or lecture on the reasons a teen has to live. Allow the teen to express feelings, and accept the feelings.
 - **Don't** give advice, false reassurances or offer easy answers.
 - **Don't** be afraid to talk directly about suicide, and get specifics. The more specific the plan, the greater the risk.
- Never keep a teen's suicidal feelings a secret. Remember, saving a life is more important than keeping a promise. Silence can be **DEADLY**!*
- **Don't** dismiss problems as unimportant. Don't minimize the threat.

For more information on suicide, its causes and resources:

If you are feeling suicidal please contact: 1-800-SUICIDE or TN Suicide Prevention Network www.tspn.org

For information about the Network or be involved please contact:

Scott Ridgway, M.S. ~ Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Executive Director
(615) 297-1077/ sridgway@tspn.org

-Article written by Scott Ridgway, M.S.

National Adoption Month

Every child in the United States is special. However, when child welfare advocates talk about “**children with special needs**,” they are referring to the majority of the 126,000 children in the US who are currently in foster care who need adoptive homes.

The term “special needs” refers to children who have physical, emotional, behavioral or learning challenges. It also refers to older children and sibling groups who have no other “special need” than a caring family. They just happen to be older or do not want to be separated from their brothers and sisters.

According to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), in the United States, there are approximately 542,000 children currently in foster care, 126,000 of whom are waiting for permanent families. Of the children in need of adoption, 66 percent are African American and 64 percent are over the age of 5. Themed “There’s No Place Like Your Home,” the National Adoption Month Campaign is designed to offer second chances to our nation’s children.



This November is National Adoption Month. REACT is asking you to join thousands of individuals, government agencies and child advocacy organizations across the nation in promoting the National Adoption Month Campaign. Launched by the U.S. Children’s Bureau, the campaign aims to increase the number of foster and adoptive parents in our community and nation.

In honor of National Adoption Month, we encourage the community, businesses, civic groups, schools, faith-based organizations and families to support the waiting children of Tennessee by promoting adoption through the foster care system, in order to secure a permanent, loving family for each and every child, regardless of race, age, gender, health, emotional or behavioral condition and past distress.

For more information about adoption, please contact your local DCS office or REACT at 615-253-3289 or 1-800-807-3228.

For more than 10 years, National Adoption Month has been observed throughout the United States to promote awareness of children waiting to be adopted.

**Family & Children’s Service
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Nashville, TN 37243**

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